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At the End.

My soul is full of whispered song,
My blindness is my sight;
The shadows that I feared so long
Are all alive with light.
The while my pulses faintly beat,
My faith doth so abound,
I feel grow firm beneath my feet
The green, immortal ground.

—ALICE CARY.

The Primitive Church and Its Customs.

THE LORD'S DAY.

We continue the examination of early writings concerning the Lord's day, or the Christian Sabbath, because there are certain ones abroad in the world teaching the people that unless they keep the commandments as given through Moses, and rest upon the seventh day, or Saturday, they cannot be permitted to participate in the joys of the redeemed, when Christ shall come to gather together his own.

In the 15th chapter of the epistle of Barnabas, we find this language:

"Wherefore, also, we keep the eighth day, (Sunday) with joyfulness, the day also on which Jesus rose again from the dead."

Whether this epistle was written by the notable companion of St Paul or not, can not be proven; but it was in existence very early, as it is quoted by several very early writers and held in high esteem, although its theology is not as pure as would be expected from that source.

The following is from a fragment of the Creation of the World, by the martyr, Victorinus, bishop of Petau, who flourished toward the end of the third century:

And let the parasceve [the preparation on the evening before the Sabbath.] become a rigorous fast, lest we should appear to observe any Sabbath with the Jews, which Christ himself, the Lord of the Sabbath, says by his prophets that 'His soul hateth'; which Sabbath, he in his body abolished."

In the apology of Tertullian section 16, the following can be found:

But you, many of you, also, under pretence sometimes of worshipping the heavenly bodies, move your lips in the direction of the sunrise. In the same way, if we devote Sunday to rejoicing, from a far different reason than Sun-worship, we have some resemblance to those of you who devote the day of Saturn to ease and luxury, though they too go far away from Jewish ways of which they are ignorant."

From Origen against Celsus, book 8, chapter 22: If it objected to us on this subject that we ourselves are accustomed to observe certain days, as for example, the Lord's day, the Preparation, the Passover, or Pentecost, I have to answer, that to the perfect Christian, who is ever in his thoughts, words, and deeds serving his natural Lord, God the Word, all his days are the Lord's, and he is always keeping the Lord's day.

The Apostolic Constitutions abound with references to the

Lord's day, and in them there is overwhelming testimony to be gathered as proof that the Sabbath and the Lord's day are different. Book 2, chapter 59, contains this: And on the day of our Lord's resurrection which is the Lord's day meet more diligently, sending praise to God who made the universe by Jesus and sent him to us, and condescended to let him suffer and raised him from the dead. Otherwise what apology will he make to God who does not assemble on that day to hear the saving Word concerning the resurrection, on which we pray thrice standing, in memory of Him who rose in three days, in which is performed the reading of the prophets, the preaching of the Gospel, the oblation of the sacrifice, the gift of the holy food.

That chapter plainly presents the work of Sunday or the Lord's day. Reading the Scriptures, praying and preaching, and the offering of thanks.

Book 7, chapter 36: O Lord Almighty, Thou hast created the world by Christ, and hast appointed the Sabbath in memory thereof. Thou hast also appointed festivals for the rejoicing of our souls, that we might come into remembrance of that wisdom which was created by thee.

He appeared in life and demonstrated himself in baptism; he suffered for us by thy permission, and died, and rose again by thy power; on which account we solemnly assemble to celebrate the feast of the resurrection on the Lord's day, and rejoice on account of Him who has conquered death, and has brought life and immortality to light. The Sabbath is the ceasing of the creation, the completion of the world, the inquiry after laws, and the grateful praise to God for the blessings he has bestowed upon men. All which the Lord's day excels, and shows the Mediator himself, the Provider, the Lawgiver, the cause of the resurrection, the First-born of the whole creation. So that the Lord's day commands us to offer unto thee, O Lord, thanksgiving for all.

(To be Continued.)

Don't Swear.

Don't swear. Don't desecrate the Lord's day. Don't slander your neighbor. Don't act the hypocrite. Don't be self-righteous. Don't be stingy. Don't read novels. Don't lie. Don't drink. Don't forget your Creator. Don't forget your Bible. Don't think the church will die when you leave it. Don't think you know everything. Don't forget that other people have rights as well as you. Don't forget that you may die. Don't forget that character is worth more than money. Don't get the blues. Don't gamble. Don't quarrel. Don't get weary in well-doing. Don't be idle. Don't "walk in the counsel of the ungodly." Don't stand in the way of sinners. Don't "sit in the seat of the scornful." Don't cross bridges until you get to them.—Dr. PORTER.

The Religious World.

The subject of cremation is now the topic of considerable debate in the religious meetings and journals of Germany.

Mr. Talmage is preaching to very large audiences in England and Scotland. He is reported to have preached to 20,000 people in Edinburgh on a recent Sunday.

The congregation at the Broadway Tabernacle, New York city, in addition to their pastor's salary, pay \$1,200 a year to keep Dr. W. M. Taylor's life insured for \$50,000.

A census taken recently in Minneapolis showed that, of the 391 owners and officers of the 82 largest business concerns, 286 are professing Christians, 84 favorably disposed, and 11 hostile.

The General Conference of the southern Methodist Church is to be held in Richmond Va., in May next. This will be the first time in the history of this church that its chief synod will meet in the capital of Virginia.

Guy Min, a Chinaman, made the sarcastic remark in a speech at San Francisco, the other day; "You send millions of dollars to China to prepare her people for the kingdom of heaven, but you refuse them a home in the United States."

The Annual Conference of the Missouri Mennonites, will be held at Mount Zion Meeting house, in Morgan Co., on September 25th, of Indiana, in Elkhart county, Oct. 9th, and of Virginia, in Frederick county, Oct. 2nd.

The British Branch of the Evangelical Alliance will hold its annual conference at Glasgow in October. The conference will commence with a social meeting on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 6th, and there will be three sessions on each of the two following days.

A sixth century manuscript of the Gospels of Matthew and Mark has been found by the Abbe Battifol, employed by the Government in the treasury of the church at Berat, Albania. It is written in the character called uncial, in silver, on purple vellum.

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, (New York) have issued a circular in which they state that the available receipts of the Society have fallen short over \$250,000 during the past four years. After giving the amount of income and outlay, they close by stating that unless financial help is given at once they must necessarily curtail their work.

The seven Mormon elders, who for some time have been doing missionary work in London, were last week mobbed and pelted through the streets. Mormonism, as a religious system, is a gross imposture, and its polygamy is a gross immorality which, when practiced, should be punished. But we submit that mobbing Mormon priests, who are simply preaching their faith, is a gross outrage upon

their rights, which ought to be punished, whether in London or anywhere else.—Ex.

Miss Cleveland receives no callers at the White House on Sunday. This it so well understood, that not even her most intimate friends outside of the White House ever cross its threshold on that day with the view of seeing her.

The Basil Foreign Mission has published its sixty-ninth annual report. Its three mission countries are East India, China, and Africa. In Africa there are connected with this society's congregations 5,567 members; in China, 2,607; in India, 7,980; making a total of 16,154, and an increase of 840 in the year 1884. In the employ of the society are engaged in Africa, twenty-three male missionaries; fifteen female missionaries; in China, thirteen males, and ten females; in India, sixty-one males and forty-nine females. The total income was 904,327 francs.

Bishop A. Cleveland Cox, of Western New York, is out in a letter to the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, in favor of his calling a Conference of Bishops at this time. He says: "Just now a crisis in our mission system is upon us. The subjects of Theological Education: of Scriptural and Liturgical Revision: of Canons Elaborated in our House which the other House had no time to entertain in 1883; and many questions, such as the work among the blacks, which we had no time to consider, are surely of such importance as to deserve matured consideration before we meet amid the confusions and pressure of business, in 1886."

Just now the alterations made in the new Irish Prayer Book are exciting a good deal of discussion. It will be remembered that the Irish church is quite low, and the changes made are in that direction. Canon Liddon has formulated the objection to it, and they include the following. 1. The Athanasian Creed is formally retained, but no direction is made that it should ever be read. 2. It drops the absolution of the penitent on his death-bed, which the clergy of the Church of England are ordered to use "if the sick person humbly and heartily desires it." For this the Synod has substituted the form in the Communion Service. The reasons given for this change are that the rejected Absolution "has been the cause of offense to many, and is a form unknown to the Church in ancient time." 3. It has banished from its Lectionary all those books called Apocrypha, and has cut out from the Offertory in the Communion Service the sentences from Tobit. Besides these changes in the Prayer Book itself, the Synod has provided that the House of Laymen in convention shall vote on doctrinal and disciplinary questions, something quite wrong according to the High Church view.

An Armenian church is to be established in London for the convenience of Armenian residents.

The corner-stone of the first Uniati Greek church in this country was laid at Shenandoah, Pa., last week.

The Campbellites dedicated a church at North Manchester, Ind., Aug. 30, and also one at Delphos, Ohio.

The American Bible Society expends \$150,000 a year in translating, publishing and distributing the Bible in foreign lands.

The additions on confession of faith to the two branches of the Presbyterian church, north and south, were last year, 52,923.

A missionary who has written a careful review of the progress of missions in Bengal 1884, notes prominently the fact that the Moslems have assumed a more favorable attitude to Christianity than ever before. Moslems form a third of the population of Lower Bengal, and hitherto they have been almost inaccessible to the truth; but during the past year they have shown a remarkable willingness to hear the Gospel not only in villages, but in Calcutta.

Preach a crucified Savior in a crucified style.—Philip Henry.

Blessed are they who see the day of glory but more blessed are they who contribute to its approach.

Do not not talk about disgrace from a thing being known, when the disgrace is that the thing should exist.

The doings of God cannot be understood, save by him who has the mind of Christ, which is the mind of God.

A Christian's experience is like a rainbow, made up of the drops of the grief of earth and beams of the bliss of heaven.

There are sweet surprises awaiting many an humble soul fighting against great odds in the battle of a seemingly common place life.—Sel.

If you want to be miserable think about yourself, about what like, what respect people ought to pay you, and what the people think of you.—Charles Kingsley.

It is not until we have passed through the furnace that we are made to know how much dross there is in our composition.

If thou art not born again, all thy outward reformation is naught; thou hast shut the door but the thief is still in the house.

A holy life has a voice. It speaks when the tongue is silent, and is either a constant attraction or a continual reproof.

A good conscience is the palace of Christ; the temple of the Holy Ghost; the paradise of delight; the standing Sabbath of the saints.

No poet of high rank, as far as I know, ever disbelieved in the future. He might fear that there was none, but that very fear is faith.